

42% to be utilized for Federal LWCF;
42% to State and local conservation and recreation projects; and

16% to fund UPARR programs.

It is important to point out that the funds allocated for State and local conservation and recreation projects only could fund one-half of the projects' costs and all expenditures would have to be consistent with the States' comprehensive outdoor recreation plans. Also the states, territories, the District of Columbia, Indian tribes, and Alaska Native Village Corporations would all be eligible to receive matching grant funds.***HD***Title III

For over six years, some segments of the conservation community have advocated the creation of an excise tax to provide funding for non-game wildlife projects and conservation education. Included in this bill is funding for wildlife conservation and education. Conservation education is critical to ensuring that people understand the interdependence between man and the environment. We are losing the idea that people and the environment that surrounds them not only can coexist, but must coexist. As the urban sprawl envelops more of the public geography and ideology, we must work to educate with the principles of sustainable use. Hiking, biking, bird-watching, canoeing, mountain climbing, and hunting are all sustainable and acceptable uses of our lands and resources. Education by using sound scientific principles is the only way to ensure that our use of our resources will be sustainable for future generations.

Another void this legislation helps to fill, is the issue of game vs. non-game funding. This issue divides the sporting community who need unity to accomplish our common goals. The excise tax initiative, while well intentioned, was divisive as it created segmented funding for a particular species of wildlife. Our bill provides funding for both species of wildlife, game and non-game through the existing mechanism of Pittman-Robertson.

Pittman-Robertson currently allows for the flexibility to address the needs of non-game species, as well as game species. We all realize that Pittman-Robertson is currently focused on funding game species. However, our bill will create a new subaccount, named the "Wildlife Conservation and Restoration" subaccount. The conservation and Reinvestment Act of 1998 will provide funding at higher levels than any other federal source for wildlife. Above levels proposed by the excise tax initiative. This will provide wildlife funding to help move the conservation community beyond the debate of game versus non-game funding and provide for conservation education. This funding is provided with the knowledge that many states will utilize them for non-game and watchable species and these functions can take place with the bill as drafted. However, we allow the flexibility for individual states to maximize their digression.

I am very active in the Congressional Sportsmen's Caucus and am currently the chairman of the Executive Council. The Sportsmen's Caucus is the largest Caucus in the Congress and sportsmen's champion. Far too often, our sportsmen and women are criticized for their outdoor recreation. The mass public does not understand our role in the economy or appreciate our heritage. The sporting community, represented by those who enjoy and utilize the outdoors are a huge segment to our Nation's economy. Members of

the Caucus leadership, like SAXBY CHAMBLISS often incorporate our significance in their speeches. We should take a moment to realize how much our sportsmen contribute to the economy and environment.

If hunting and fishing were a corporation, it would rank 10th on the Fortune 500 list. This is ahead of giant corporations like AT&T.

Sportsmen activities support more than twice the number of workers employed by Wal-Mart. Wal-Mart, incidently, Wal-Mart is the largest Fortune 500 employer.

Sportsmen's assets equal, \$60 billion in retail sales, 1.9 million jobs supported, and \$8.7 billion in state and federal tax revenues. Economists estimate that these factors create a \$169 billion ripple effect in our country's economy.

Some additional facts related to the taxes the sporting community pays are also interesting:

Tax revenues generated by sportsmen are greater than the box office total of all United States movie theaters. Also, exceed the combined box office earnings of the all-time top ten grossing films.

Federal tax revenues generated by sportsmen could pay for the combined budgets of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Endangered Species appropriation, Bureau of Land Management, National Biological Service, and National Park Service. For two years!

Federal tax revenues from New York sportsmen alone could pay for the entire U.S. Forest Service fish and wildlife budget. Pennsylvania sportsmen could pick-up the same tab.

Sportsmen's sales tax revenues generated in North Dakota, South Dakota, Vermont, and West Virginia could pay for their state's entire parks and recreation budgets.

All of you are well aware that the sporting community, especially those who engage in hunting and fishing, have been supporting the larger community of outdoor recreation for decades. Their generous contributions through the sportsmen trust accounts of Dingell-Johnson and Pittman-Robertson have immeasurably benefitted wildlife and their habitat. With that success in mind, I look forward to working with all individuals and groups to see this new subaccount passed into Law.

TRIBUTE TO PETER C. EAGLER

HON. BILL PASCRELL, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 7, 1998

Mr. PASCRELL. Mr. Speaker, I would like to call to your attention the Honorable Peter C. Eagler of Clifton, New Jersey. Peter is being honored this evening by the Clifton Democratic Club for his many years of invaluable service to the community.

Peter Eagler is a lifelong resident of the City of Clifton. In 1972, he graduated from Paul VI High School whereupon he entered Fairleigh Dickinson University as an undergraduate. He graduated from Fairleigh in 1976 with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Political Science and Russian Area Studies.

Peter has been employed by the New Jersey Highway Authority in Woodbridge since 1977 and is also a Coordinator for the PNC Bank Art Center, formerly the Garden State Art Center. He previously worked as an As-

sistant Coordinator for the Art Center and as a Coordinator of Heritage Festivals.

Peter's career in politics began back in 1974 when he was first elected to serve on the Clifton Democratic County Committee. He then became an active participant in several campaigns in North Jersey including being County Coordinator for Jimmy Carter's Presidential campaign, County Coordinator for Jim Florio's 1977 bid for Governor, member of the Steering Committee for Gloria Kolodziej's campaign for City Council, and County Coordinator for both Gary Hart's Presidential Primary bid and the Freeholder campaign in 1984. Peter also served Jim Florio's campaign again in 1989, as an advisor to the campaign's Ethnic Coordinator.

In 1990, Peter ran for a seat on the Clifton City Council and was elected. In 1994 and, again in 1998, he was re-elected to serve on the Council. As a member of the Council, he has served, and continues to serve, as liaison to the Planning Board and the Environmental Advisory Board, Chair of the Certificate of Occupancy Committee, and a member of both the Recreational Task Force and Real Estate Committees.

In 1995, Peter ran unsuccessfully for Freeholder but ran again and was elected to the Board of Chosen Freeholders in 1996. As Freeholder, Peter served as Chairman of the Community Services, Education, and Recreation Committee. In November 1997, the Democratic Party gained a majority on the Freeholder Board and in January of 1998, Peter was chosen as the new Director of the Freeholder Board.

Outside of his political involvements, Peter is also an active member of the community. He has been President of St. John Kanty's Parish Council (1975-1977), Administrator of Hamilton House (1981-1987), member of Pascaic County's Sesquicentennial Commission (1985-1987), the Governor's Ethnic Inaugural Committee, the Clifton Historical Commission (1975-1990), and the Lakeview Civic Association. In December 1993, he was ordained a Subdeacon in Holy Apostles Church. Currently, Peter serves as a Trustee of Holy Archangel Broadcasting and is a Coordinator of the St. Nicholas Program at the Hamilton House Museum.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you join me, our colleagues, and Peter's family and friends in paying tribute to one of North Jersey's most dedicated servants of the community, the Honorable Peter C. Eagler.

HOME HEALTH CARE PAYMENTS

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 7, 1998

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, on behalf of myself, Mr. DINGELL, Mr. MATSUI, Mr. BROWN of Ohio, Mr. COYNE, Mr. LEVIN, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. McDERMOTT, and Mr. MCGOVERN of Massachusetts, I am today introducing a bill to help ameliorate the impact of the home health agency interim payment system and to delay the scheduled 15% cut in home health agency payments scheduled for next fall.

Our bill is revenue neutral.

It is different from the bill being developed by some of the Republicans on the Ways and